



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®

The Lifeguarding Experts

Yi Fan Wang Coroner's Inquest Recommendations

May 23, 2013

Recommendations

To the Canada Games Aquatic Centre- Saint John

1. Provide direct supervision of the Tarzan rope and waterslide.

When in operation, the Canada Games Aquatic Centre should provide direct supervision of each piece of equipment.

For the waterslide an attendant should be stationed at the start area of the waterslide while a lifeguard should be stationed adjacent the waterslide drop area.

For the Tarzan swing rope a lifeguard should be stationed adjacent the rope.

All waterslide and Tarzan rope lifeguards should be responsible for supervision of these devices only and not assigned any other equipment or pool areas to supervise.

2. Establish and post in the pool office lifeguard position, scanning zones, and rotation charts for all recreational swim periods.

Supervisory staff should ensure that for each of the various aquatic activities (e.g., recreation swim periods), lifeguard placement and supervision zones need to be defined. Issues effecting the placement of lifeguarding personnel should be identified (e.g. surface water glare) and resolved. Lifeguard rotation schedules should then be created.

Once defined, all of these items need to be documented and incorporated into the staff handbook and operational procedures manual and included in regular staff training sessions. Diagrams or charts illustrating these placements and procedures should be posted in the pool office. The

The Lifesaving Society could assist with this review and preparation of recommendations.

3. Enhance lifeguard scanning training.

A training session should be conducted for all lifeguards highlighting scanning techniques and scanning standards. The Society has created a PowerPoint presentation which pool supervisory personnel can access. In addition, lifeguard scanning practices should be monitored on a random and ongoing basis. The Society's SEE (Supervision Evaluation and Enhancement) evaluation system can assist pool supervisory personnel with swimming pool scanning evaluation and the subsequent planning of training sessions.

4. Create 911 call script checklist.

A 911 call script checklist should be created to assist the facility caller in collecting and relaying information to EMS services. This should be created by working with EMS services and the Canada Games Aquatic Centre. All facility staff should be trained in the use of this checklist.

5. Establish a bystander intervention care policy.

When an emergency occurs bystanders often come forward to assist. In order to ensure that aquatic staff have clear direction on what assistance they may offer, supervision that is required, and the bystander removal authority staff possess, a policy should be developed and staff trained in its application.

6. Enhance waterslide signage.

The design of this waterslide requires that bathers using this slide to be good swimmers. Signage should be installed warning of deep water and side use rules (see Appendix 1).

7. Promote the completion of the Lifesaving Society Comprehensive Aquatic Safety Audit.

The purpose of the aquatic audit is to maximize the safety of participants utilizing public pools. After a detailed review of the complete aquatics operation of an aquatic facility which includes: a facility inspection, a review of Policy and Procedures Manuals, and interviews with designated representatives, the audit will identify recommendations that will enhance safety of the facility and minimize the risk of drowning or serious water-related injuries from occurring in the aquatic facility.

8. Certify management staff with the Lifesaving Society Aquatic Management Training certification.

In many aquatic facilities there are management personnel responsible for the direction of aquatic staff. In order to ensure they are familiar with aquatic standards, all management personnel must receive training. The Lifesaving Society has a certification program that would ensure personnel have the necessary information to safely manage aquatic facilities.

To the Lifesaving Society

1. Revise the Pool and Waterfront Guidelines for New Brunswick, September 2010.

The Lifesaving Society, New Brunswick Branch has published these guidelines for use by public aquatic facilities. This information is particularly important to New Brunswick pool operators and owners because of the lack of Regulations. Items for review by the Society should include but are not limited to:

- Supervision standards for swimming pools over 500 square metres
- Speciality equipment supervision- e.g.: Tarzan swing ropes, slides, mats

2. Establish universal signage templates.

Communicating with a multicultural community is important especially when bather safety is at stake. Pictograms should be designed and aquatic facilities encouraged to use these to warn and educate bathers regarding safe practices and hazards around aquatic facilities (Appendix 2).

This report constitutes opinions of the undersigned as of the date of the report and is based upon the information provided as indicated within the materials reviewed section of the report, as well as my knowledge and experience in aquatics and as the Aquatic Safety Management Director of the Lifesaving Society. In the event of additional information being brought forward, the foregoing opinions may be subject to revision or modification.

Completed by Michael Shane
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Lifesaving Society

May 23, 2013
Date

Appendix 1

Signage

Every water slide shall have a sign posted at the entrance to the water slide that conveys the following rules and instructions:

- (a) Obey all orders given by the attendant and operator;
- (b) No person shall dive, run, stand, kneel, rotate or stop in the channel;
- (c) Hands must be kept inside the channel;
- (d) Users must leave the splash down area promptly;
- (e) No person shall bring glass, bottles or food into the water slide area;
- (f) No bunching or chaining by riders permitted;
- (g) Such restrictions as may be placed on the use of the water slide by the manufacturer and designer of the water slide;
- (h) The depth of water in discharge splash down area.

Emergency procedures specifically designed for the slide must be clearly posted and training in these procedures must be practiced, ensure records of the training are also kept in a file.

Appendix 2

